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TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

I ADDRESS you on a subject which causes some inconvenience here, and probably, the same difficulty exists in other parts of the United States; this is the irregularity and diversity of time. There is no common standard, and every district is regulated by a clock of its own. The difference between the time in Boston, and the villages about it, is always considerable, and in some instances it varies upwards of half an hour. There is generally this difference at least between Salem and Boston; this often interferes with appointments in business, and in certain circumstances a criminal might be able to prove an alibi on this very ground. In former times, dials were common in every town; and there are few towns or villages in Europe without them. I know but of one exposed to the publick in this part of the country, which is the vertical dial on the east end of the Old State House in Boston, but this is so much defaced, that it is almost useless. It would be a great convenience to many persons, if every city and village had a horizontal dial in some publick, central situation. The clocks and watches might then all be regulated by this, and time would have a common regulator. The period is not very remote when a watch was a rare machine, the hours were then noted by the dial and the hour-glass, now there is hardly any man, young or old, rich or poor, who does not own a watch of some kind; some of which are about the same use to the possessor, when the value of his time is considered, that a parasol is to a lady of colour, whose complexions are often guarded with this contrivance. The expense would be trifling to provide a dial for each town, and much convenience would result from their introduction.

Boston.

Yours,

O TEMPORA!

TO THE EDITOR.

SIR,

I SEND you some account of the works now going on at the Lead mine in Southampton; and also of the Basaltick Columas in South Hadley, which may serve to call the attention of the publick to two objects well worth visiting. There are persons living in the vicinity who can and ought

to give you a better account of them: this is at your service in the mean time. E. H.

SOUTHAMPTON LEAD MINE.

The lead mine at Southampton is becoming an object of very considerable curiosity and importance. Professor Silliman of Newhaven, who visited it in the summer of 1810, gave an interesting and particular account of it up to that time, in the *New-York Mineralogical Journal*.

The vein, which contains the ore, is very extensive in length; but, as far as it has yet been explored, is very narrow. Several shafts were sunk, one to the depth of seventy or eighty feet. But it was found extremely troublesome to work them, on account of the quantity of water; which was so great as to make it necessary to keep the machines for carrying it up, going night and day. For this reason the proprietors were induced to abandon the works at the vein for the present; and commenced running a level to it, from the foot of a hill about sixty rods distant from it.

It is this level which at present is the principal object of curiosity. The cavity of it is six feet square, and at the time the writer visited it (the middle of June last) extended seven hundred and twenty-six feet. At the further extremity, the perpendicular distance from the surface of the ground to the bottom of the cavern, is one hundred and ten feet; and where it strikes the vein it will be twenty or thirty feet more. Five hundred feet from the mouth, a shaft for the circulation of air has been sunk, (or rather *raised* from the bottom, for it was cut through from the bottom upwards,) which is ninety feet deep.

Except about one hundred feet at the entrance, which is sand, supported by timbers, the whole course of the cavern is through solid rock. The rock for the first few hundred feet, appears like indurated sand, thickly interspersed with pebbles of very hard quartz, from the size of buck-shot to that of a cannon ball. As you advance, the rock grows harder and firmer. At the extremity, it is principally granite of various appearances. In some places, masses of quartz and of felspar may be obtained distinct, that will weigh several pounds. In others it is quite fine and apparently compact. The colours are very various, generally different shades of green. The whole of the